

Volunteerism started early in America

The Constitution had been approved by the delegates to the convention. Now the Constitution had to be ratified by nine of the thirteen states before it could go into effect. Approval by the people was not an easy thing. Copies of the Constitution were sent to all the states. The new Constitution became the major topic of discussion. Arguments for and against the Constitution flooded the newspapers. New York was the scene of some of the bitterest debates about the Constitution. It was at this time Hamilton, Jay, and Madison began to publish the "Federalist Papers." The "Federalist Papers" were a series of newspaper articles which explained and defended the Constitution.



The Constitution was ready to be presented to the people for their approval. The Constitution provided for a Congress having two houses. The upper house would be called the Senate and each state would have two senators. The original senators were elected by the state legislatures. An amendment added to the Constitution in 1913 provides for senators to be elected by the people. The lower house was called the House of Representatives. The members were called representatives and elected by the people. The population of the state would determine the number of representatives elected.



The president was to be selected by a special group called the "Electoral College." The number of members each state had in the electoral college was determined by adding the number of representatives and senators. People voted for members to the electoral college. The electo-